

# Business Meeting Minutes

## April 14, 2023



WASHINGTON  
**Medical  
Commission**  
Licensing. Accountability. Leadership.

Link to recording: [https://youtu.be/HTotBHE\\_WWo](https://youtu.be/HTotBHE_WWo)

### Commission Members

Michael Bailey, Public Member  
Christine Blake, Public Member  
Toni Borlas, Public Member – Absent  
Po-Shen Chang, MD – Absent  
Jimmy Chung, MD, Chair – Absent  
Diana Currie, MD – Absent  
Karen Domino, MD, Chair Elect  
Arlene Dorrough, PA-C  
Anjali D’Souza, MD  
Harlan Gallinger, MD – Absent

April Jaeger, MD  
Ed Lopez, PA-C  
Sarah Lyle, MD  
Terry Murphy, MD, Officer at Large  
Elisha Mvundura, MD  
Robert Pullen, Public Member  
Scott Rodgers, JD, Public Member  
Claire Trescott, MD – Absent  
Richard Wohns, MD  
Yanling Yu, PhD, Public Member

### WMC Staff in Attendance

Christine Babb, Investigator (Virtual)  
Colleen Balatbat, Staff Attorney (Virtual)  
Jennifer Batey, Legal Support Staff Manager  
Amelia Boyd, Program Manager  
Renee Bruess, RN, Investigator  
Kayla Bryson, Executive Assistant  
Jimi Bush, Director of Quality & Engagement  
Adam Calica, Chief Investigator  
Sarah Chenvert, Performance Manager  
Melanie de Leon, Executive Director  
Joel DeFazio, Staff Attorney  
Tanya Eberly, Complaint Intake Coordinator  
Mike Farrell, Policy Development Manager  
Gina Fino, MD, Investigator (Virtual)

Rick Glein, Director of Legal Services  
Marisa Courtney, Licensing Manager (Virtual)  
Mike Hively, Director Operations & Informatics  
Ken Imes, Information Liaison  
Kyle Karinen, Staff Attorney  
Shelley Kilmer-Ready, Legal Assistant (Virtual)  
Pam Kohlmeier, MD, JD, Attorney  
Lisa Krynicki, Staff Attorney  
Stephanie Mason, Public Relations & Legislative  
Liaison (Virtual)  
Micah Matthews, Deputy Executive Director  
Freda Pace, Director of Investigations  
Chris Waterman, Complaint Intake Manager

### Others in Attendance

Heather Cantrell, Policy Analyst, Department of  
Health (DOH) (Virtual)  
Chris Gerard, Assistant Attorney General  
Maria Higginbotham (Virtual)  
John Maldon, Public Member, Pro Tem (Virtual)

Hillary Norris, Policy Analyst, Washington State  
Medical Association (WSMA)  
Jeanne Peterson (Virtual)  
Georgine Robertshaw (Virtual)

#### 1.0 Call to Order

Karen Domino, MD, Chair Elect, called the meeting of the Washington Medical Commission (WMC) to order at 8:00 a.m. on April 14, 2023.

#### 2.0 Public Comment

Maria Higginbotham, provided comments regarding opioid prescribing in Washington State.

### 3.0 Chair Report

Dr. Domino, Chair Elect, had nothing to report.

### 4.0 Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda contained the following items for approval:

4.1 Minutes from the March 3, 2023 Business Meeting

4.2 Agenda for April 14, 2023.

**Motion:** The Chair entertained a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

### 5.0 Old Business

#### 5.1 WMC Statement

Micah Matthews presented the statement *WMC Supports State Protection of MDs and PAs Who Prescribe Mifepristone and Provide Reproductive Health Care*. The statement was discussed.

**Motion:** The Chair Elect entertained a motion to approve the statement as presented. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

### 6.0 Old Business

#### 6.1 Committee/Workgroup Reports

These reports were provided in writing and included in the meeting packet. There were no additional reports.

#### 6.2 Nominating Committee

April Jaeger, MD, Committee Chair, reported the Committee nominates the following Commissioners for the following positions:

- Chair – Karen Domino, MD
- Chair Elect – Terry Murphy, MD
- Officer-at-Large – April Jaeger, MD; Richard Wohns, MD; or Ed Lopez, PA-C

The election of leadership will take place at the May 26, 2023, Business meeting.

#### 6.3 Rulemaking Activities

The rulemaking progress report was provided in the meeting packet. In addition to the written report, Micah Matthews, Deputy Executive Director, made the following request:

Emergency Rulemaking Rescinding Portions of [WAC 246-919-330](#). Mr. Matthews provided some background on this issue and information to support initiating rulemaking.

**Motion:** The Chair Elect entertained a motion to initiate rulemaking. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

### 7.0 Policy Committee Report

Christine Blake, Public Member, Policy Committee Chair, asked Mike Farrell, Policy Development Manager to report on the items discussed at the Policy Committee meeting held on April 13, 2023. The agenda was as follows:

### **Interpretive Statement: Opioid Prescribing & Monitoring for Allopathic Physicians and Physician Assistants**

Mr. Farrell stated this document had been through Secretary review and presented the changes that were suggested as part of that review. He also presented some additional changes that were provided by staff. Since there were so many changes, the Committee recommended sending the revised document back to the Secretary's office for additional review.

**Motion:** The Chair entertained a motion to approve the document as presented for review by the Secretary's office. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **Interpretive Statement: Opioid Prescribing & Monitoring for Patients**

Mr. Farrell stated this document had been through Secretary review and presented the changes that were suggested as part of that review. He also presented some additional changes that were provided by staff. Since there were so many changes, the Committee recommended sending the revised document back to the Secretary's office for additional review.

**Motion:** The Chair entertained a motion to approve the document as presented for review by the Secretary's office. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **Possible Rulemaking: Comparing New CDC Guidelines to WMC Opioid Prescribing Rules**

Mr. Farrell stated that Gregory Terman, MD, former Pro Tem Commissioner, wrote a comprehensive paper comparing the [2022 CDC Clinical Practice Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Pain](#) to the WMC's current opioid prescribing rules (for Physician Assistants: WAC [246-918-800](#) through [246-918-935](#); for allopathic Physicians (MDs): WAC [246-919-850](#) through [246-919-985](#)). Mr. Farrell asked Dr. Domino to speak on the recommendations from the Committee. Dr. Domino stated that the Committee recommended initiating rulemaking on three items:

1. Exempting patients with Sickle Cell Disease.
2. State in rule that not all chronic pain patients need to be tapered off opioids.
3. Clearer rules regarding biological specimen testing.

**Motion:** The Chair entertained a motion to initiate rulemaking on the above three areas. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **High Reliability Organizations (HiRO) Workgroup Report**

Mr. Farrell provided a report on the last meeting of the HiRO workgroup. The workgroup met with the investigators to discuss consistency in communication. The next workgroup meeting will be held at noon on April 14, 2023.

## **8.0 Member Reports**

No member reports were provided.

## **9.0 Staff Reports**

Melanie de Leon, Executive Director, stated that long-time Medical Consultant for the WMC, Dr. George Heye, will be retiring soon. She read a letter of thanks and congratulations from the Secretary of Health, Dr. Umair Shah. Ms. de Leon also read a proclamation from the Chair of the WMC, Dr. Jimmy Chung.

Freda Pace, Director of Investigations, stated that recently Chris Waterman had been promoted from Case Manager to Complaint Intake Manager. Mr. Waterman then introduced a new Complaint Intake Coordinator, Tanya Eberly. Ms. Eberly then spoke a bit about herself.

**10.0 AAG Report**

Chris Gerard, AAG, had nothing to report.

**11.0 Adjournment**

The Chair called the meeting adjourned at 8:40 am.

Submitted by

(signature on file)

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Amelia Boyd, Program Manager

(signature on file)

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Karen Domino, MD, Chair Elect  
Washington Medical Commission

Approved May 26, 2023

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